AMENDMENT

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Presently amended) An isolated polypeptide ~~having~~ consisting of a polypeptide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:9, SEQ ID NO:10, and SEQ ID NO:11, which lacks detectable N-glycosidase-rRNA activity or exhibits reduced N-glycosidase-rRNA activity as compared to a wild type ricin A chain.

2. (Previously amended) The polypeptide of claim 1, wherein the polypeptide retains the neutralizing immunological epitope of wild type ricin A chain.

3. (Original) The polypeptide of claim 1, wherein the polypeptide has an aqueous solubility that is greater than the solubility of wild type ricin A chain.

4. (Previously amended) The polypeptide of claim 1, wherein the wild type ricin A chain comprises SEQ ID NO:1.

5. (Presently amended) The polypeptide of claim 1, wherein the polypeptide sequence ~~comprises~~ is SEQ ID NO:3 or SEQ ID NO:4.

6. (Canceled).

7. (Previously amended) The polypeptide of claim 1, wherein the polypeptide sequence lacks a hydrophobic loop.

8. (Canceled).

9. (Original) The polypeptide of claim 1, made by recombinant DNA techniques.

10. (Original) The polypeptide of claim 1, made by proteolytically cleaving the first globular domain and the second globular domain of ricin A chain and then purifying the first globular domain.

11-13. (Canceled).

14. (Presently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one polypeptide ~~or variant~~ of claim 1 in an immunogenic amount and a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle.

15. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 14, and further comprising an adjuvant.

16. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 14, wherein the composition is capable of eliciting an immune response when administered to a subject.

17. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 16, wherein the immune response is a protective immune response.

18-23. (Canceled).

24. (Previously amended) A kit comprising at least one of the following

(a) the isolated polypeptide of claim 1; and

(b) a pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one polypeptide of claim 1 in an immunogenic amount and a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle

packaged together with instructions for use.

25. (Newly added) An isolated polypeptide having a polypeptide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:9, and SEQ ID NO:11, which lacks detectable N-glycosidase-rRNA activity or exhibits reduced N-glycosidase-rRNA activity as compared to a wild type ricin A chain.

26. (Newly added) The polypeptide of claim 25, wherein the polypeptide retains the neutralizing immunological epitope of wild type ricin A chain.

27. (Newly added) The polypeptide of claim 25, wherein the polypeptide has an aqueous solubility that is greater than the solubility of wild type ricin A chain.

28. (Newly added) The polypeptide of claim 25, wherein the wild type ricin A chain comprises SEQ ID NO:1.

29. (Newly added) The polypeptide of claim 25, wherein the polypeptide sequence lacks a hydrophobic loop.

30. (Newly added) The polypeptide of claim 25, made by recombinant DNA techniques.

31. (Newly added) The polypeptide of claim 25, made by proteolytically cleaving the first globular domain and the second globular domain of ricin A chain and then purifying the first globular domain.

32. (Newly added) A pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one polypeptide of claim 25 in an immunogenic amount and a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle.

33. (Newly added) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 32, and further comprising an adjuvant.

34. (Newly added) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 32, wherein the composition is capable of eliciting an immune response when administered to a subject.

35. (Newly added) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 34, wherein the immune response is a protective immune response.

36. (Newly added) A kit comprising at least one of the following

(a) the isolated polypeptide of claim 25; and

(b) a pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one polypeptide of claim 25 in an immunogenic amount and a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle

packaged together with instructions for use.